

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 4.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been canceled.

Claim 7 has been amended.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-14 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Stack et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,121,369 ("Stack").

Claims 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stack in view of the admitted prior art.

Stack discloses a liquid-crystalline polyester component consisting essentially of diacid residues consisting essentially of terephthalic acid (T) and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid (N) residues; diol residues consisting of hydroquinone (HQ) residues; and phydroxybenzoic acid (PHB) residues. More specifically Stack discloses the liquid-crystalline polyester consisting essentially of about 1.5 to 25 mole percent terephthalic acid (T) residues, about 6.5 to 37 mole percent 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid (N) residues, about 16 to 42 mole percent hydroquinone (HQ) residues, and about 17 to 67 mole percent phydroxybenzoic acid (PHB); where the total mole percent T, N, HQ and PHB residues is equal to 100. Preferably, the T:N molar ratio is about 10:90 to about 60:40, the moles of HQ are equal to the total moles of T and N (see, from column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 1). Specifically, the Examples in Stack disclose that the liquid crystalline polyester consists of the PHB residues in the following amounts, 42.8 mole percent (Examples 1-6, 10 and 11), 33.2 mole percent (Example 7), 61.4 mole percent

(Example 8), 29 mole percent (Example 9), and 54 mole percent (Example 12). None of these mole percentages are within Applicants' claimed range of an aromatic liquid-crystalline polyester which comprises 55-60% by mole of structural unit (I) based on the total structural units of the polyester.

The present invention provides a film preferably prepared from an aromatic liquid-crystalline polyester which comprises 55-60% by mole of structural unit (I) based on total structural units of the polyester (as recited in currently amended claim 1, which is disclosed at page 4, line 9 of Applicants' specification) to achieve the effects of the present invention, i.e., low water-absorbing property as well as small liner expansion coefficient (see, the 1st full paragraph at page 2 of the specification). Stack fails to disclose or suggest such a liquid-crystalline polyester.

In the present invention, when the liquid-crystalline polyester further comprises structural unit (IV), the molar ratio of structural unit (III) to structural unit (IV), i.e., (III)/(IV), is preferably 20/80 to 80/20 (which is recited in claim 7) to attain a much smaller liner expansion coefficient (see, page 5, lines 22-24 of the specification). Such a feature of the liquid-crystalline polyester and the effect thereof are not taught or suggested in Stack either.

As mentioned above, at least one of the features of claim 1 (i.e., the mole amounts of 55-60% of structural unit (I)) is not disclosed in Stack. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated and is not obvious over Stack. Claims 2, 5 and 7-14, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are not anticipated or obvious over Stack for at least the same reason that claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious over Stack.

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Additionally, claim 7 would also not be anticipated or obvious over Stack because Stack fails to teach or disclose that the amount of (III)/(IV) is from (80/20) to (20/80) in the molar ratio

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present claims would not be anticipated by Stack or obvious over Stack in view of the admitted prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

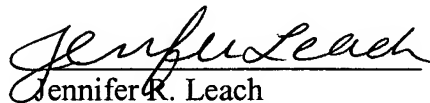
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